



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2005

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Kind Requests an Extension of Public Comment Period for CCP Alternative E

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) sent a letter today to Upper Mississippi River Refuge Manager Don Hultman requesting an extension of the 60-day public comment period for the Alternative E proposal of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). The 60-day period began on December 5, 2005, the day Alternative E was released, and ends February 3, 2006. The US Fish and Wildlife Service plans to hold a series of open houses where people can get information and ask questions. In the letter, Kind also called for public meetings in order to give citizens an opportunity to provide feedback on the new alternative.

“Throughout this process I have underscored the importance of public participation in the development of a plan that the Refuge’s many constituencies can support,” said Rep. Kind. “The Fish and Wildlife Service has taken great strides to involve the public and give them an opportunity to make their comments known. In considering the new alternative, I believe that we should again offer citizens an opportunity to provide feedback.”

Letter below.

December 20, 2005

Don Hultman
Upper Mississippi River Refuge Manager
US Fish and Wildlife Service
51 East 4th Street
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Dear Don:

I am writing about the proposed Alternative E of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge. In particular, I have received feedback from some of my constituents with concerns that public meetings will not be offered and that a 60-day comment period will not be enough time to adequately provide comments.

(more)

The success of the Refuge is due to the strong support of its many constituencies. Groups working collaboratively with Refuge staff have been responsible for many accomplishments. You and your staff have demonstrated your availability to the public through the initial plan release. I respectfully request that you consider extending the deadline for Alternative E beyond February 3rd and scheduling public meetings. The Refuge is an important conservation and economic resource to the people and communities of this region and it is important to provide an allowable timeline for proper input.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind
Member of Congress